GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4174
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2016
Separate Policy for Mining of Coal in Meghalaya
Pala Shri Vincent H

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to formulate a separate policy for mining of coal in Meghalaya, if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether the Government of Meghalaya has requested the Union Government to exempt the Sixth Schedule Areas in Meghalaya from the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973, if so, the details thereof; and
(c) whether the Union Government has expressed its view in the National Green Tribunal about the banning of coal mining in Meghalaya, if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (IC) IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL,
POWER, NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY AND MINES
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) & (b) Yes Madam. Ministry of Coal has received a proposal from Government of Meghalaya on 28.07.2016 proposing amendments in certain provisions of Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation)Act, 1957(MMDR Act) and Coal Mines (Nationalization) Act, 1973 (CMN Act)and requested for a Presidential notification under Para 12 A (b) of the 6th Schedule to the Constitution so that the proposed amendments in MMDR Act, 1957 and CMN Act shall not apply/ shall apply with modifications to the Autonomous Region(Scheduled areas) of the State of Meghalaya.

(c) Ministry of Coal had filed affidavit in the National Green Tribunal in OA no. 110(THC) of 2012 inter alia stating that there is nothing to show that the President of India has given any exemption that the Coal Mines (Nationalization) Act, 1973 shall not apply to an autonomous district or an autonomous region in the State of Meghalaya, therefore the law is applicable.
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